

# Wildcat Mews

## From the Principal's Desk



Spring is finally here! I don't know about you, but I am enjoying spending time outside in the evenings and on weekends. Spring break has come and gone. I hope everyone took some time to relax and enjoy your family. It is now time to buckle down and finish out the school year. It's hard to believe there are only six more Monday's of school remaining in this school year. There is so much left to accomplish!

All grade levels are continuing to work hard every day. We have several wonderful educational opportunities coming in the months of April and May by way of fieldtrips. Grade 4 is travelling to Monticello in April. Grades 2 and 3 are going to the

Frontier Museum in May. Grades 4, 5, and 6 are going to check out the Civil War Mobile in May. Grade 7 is making their way to Williamsburg and Virginia Beach in June. In addition, we are already planning our end of year events.

As we are looking toward the end of the year, please make sure your child has time to play outside in the evening but also please remember the importance of getting homework done. Teachers are doing their very best to make sure time spent here and at home is purposeful and directly linked to their learning goals. Also, even though the days are getting longer, children still need plenty of sleep at night to perform at their maximum ability each day. Similarly, breakfast is very important and helps children get their day off to a good start. Working together, we can ensure that your child is successful and finishes the school year with bang!

As always, please feel free to call or email me at any time with questions, concerns or comments. I always enjoy working with families and the community to ensure MES is the best school around!

A couple of dates to remember:

- May 19 through May 29 – SOL Test Window
- May 25 – Memorial Day – No School
- June 1 through June 2 – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Trip
- June 4 at 6:30 pm – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Promotion
- June 5 – Last Day of School, Early Release



### Important Dates

- 04/18 St. Jude's Bike-a-thon 9-11:30 am
- 04/21 Children's Art Network  
Gr. 1: 9:30 am;  
Gr. 3: 12 pm
- 04/23 Mountain Soil & Water Visits
- 04/24 No Preschool  
1st & Citizens Bank Visits K-1
- 04/28 Spring Family Reading Night
- 05/01 Gr. 4, 5, 6 to Civil War Mobile at VES 8:50-11:30 am
- 05/04 Progress Reports Go Home
- 05/05 4th Gr. Band Recruitment Parent Meeting at BCHS 6 pm
- 05/06 4-H Visits Gr. 4-7
- 05/07 Mountain Soil & Water Visits  
Gr. 2/3 to Frontier Culture Museum 8:45 am-2:30 pm
- 05/14 4-H Afterschool Program 3:30-5 pm
- 05/15 No Preschool
- 05/17 Spring Band Concert 5 pm at BCHS
- 05/19 Reading SOL Gr. 4 & 7
- 05/20 Reading SOL Gr. 5
- 05/21 Reading SOL Gr. 3 & 6
- 05/22 Civics SOL Gr. 4 & 7
- 05/25 Memorial Day Holiday
- 05/26 Math SOL Gr. 5
- 05/27 Math SOL Gr. 4 & 7  
Preschool Hoe Down 6 pm
- 05/28 Math SOL 3 & 6
- 05/29 Science SOL Gr. 5  
ROAR Reward PK-3; 12-2:30 pm
- 05/30 Kings Dominion Trip for Elementary Band



## Preschool



Preschool has been learning about tools. We took an “April Tool’s Day” trip on April 1<sup>st</sup> to the Mertz Vocational Center, followed by lunch at Cucci’s. While touring the Mertz Vocational Center, the children saw many different types of tools in action and were able to use some of the tools themselves. They used safety equipment such as goggles, ear muffs, aprons, hard hats, and dust masks. They used measuring tools in carpentry, drilled holes and used tools to put screws into wood. They used a sifter in culinary to sift flour then mixed different colors of dyed water to see what new colors they could make, and they learned how to properly fold napkins. They were able to look under a truck in auto to see how it is made. They watched a 3D printer create a duck from a computer. They created their own games using a computer. They typed on an old-fashioned typewriter, an electric typewriter, and a computer. They saw how a house is wired inside of the walls in electric and watched a turbine in use that was built by the Mertz students. They even watched the tools used at Cucci’s Pizzeria that created their lunch. It was a fun day for the preschoolers, their parents, and Mrs. Brunner and Mrs. Lewis!

## Kindergarten

The months of March and April have been busy. The students have been studying facts about Virginia. We talked about the cardinal being our state bird as well as the dogwood being our state tree and flower. We worked on a book about Virginia to help the students remember the facts about our state and to hopefully recognize its shape. They are working on locating Virginia on the map of the United States. We also talked about the Virginia state flag. The students were able to remember seeing the state flag along with the USA flag at different locations in nearby cities. We discussed symbols of Virginia as well as symbols for the United States and the signs of freedom. Hopefully these facts will be easy for them to remember as they get older.

The students had a fun day on Tuesday, March 17th. The students entered the room that morning to find many things out of place such as chairs turned over, trays moved and calendar items moved around. After the class cleaned up the room, we got back to our normal morning routine. We worked, went to lunch and recess and then returned to the room to find a mess again. They were so excited to also find lots of candy and gold coins on the floor this time. They were even more excited to find out that the gold coins were really chocolate candy. The students enjoyed the treats during the day. I did let them know at the end of the day that leprechauns were not real and it had actually been Ms. Julie messing up our room and leaving the candy. It gave us a chance to talk about other countries on the map and ways to travel over the ocean. It was a fun day!

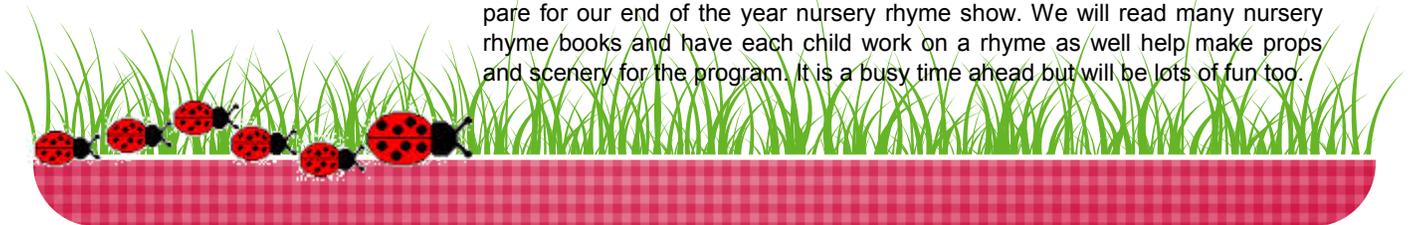
It’s hard to believe that the end of the year is near. For the remainder of the month of April, we will study spring animals, plants and “Earth Day”. This also gives us an opportunity to talk about ways to help our earth by recycling, reusing and reducing the amount of water we use every day. We will also talk about saving electricity and how we can do this at home and at school.

In May, we will make gifts for moms for Mother’s Day and we also make something for dads as well since we are not in school on Father’s Day. We will prepare for our end of the year nursery rhyme show. We will read many nursery rhyme books and have each child work on a rhyme as well help make props and scenery for the program. It is a busy time ahead but will be lots of fun too.



### Important Dates (continued)

- 06/01 Gr. 7 to Williamsburg/VA Beach; Leaving at 6 am  
Field Day PK-3; 8:30-10:30 am  
Kg. Nursery Rhyme Show 6:30 pm
- 06/02 Gr. 7 Returns at 10 pm  
AR Reward Trip
- 06/03 Field Day Gr. 4-7; 8:30-10:30 am
- 06/04 ROAR Reward Gr. 4-7; 12-3 pm  
Gr. 7 Promotion 6:30 pm
- 06/05 Last Day of School  
Awards Ceremony 9 am  
Early Release 12:30 pm
- 06/15 Report Cards Ready for Pickup



## Second Grade

Spring is finally here! The students are enjoying the warmer weather in hopes that we can do more activities outside. The Third nine weeks have been full of challenges. Snow, delays and sickness has swept our room. As told to you in the beginning each nine weeks gets a little harder and more expectations are expected of your child. Your child is responsible for putting their homework in their folder themselves and for writing letters correctly in manuscript. 1 point will be taken off as you have seen in their spelling test. They must use punctuation in their sentences and make complete sentences.

The Third nine weeks in Reading we were working on cause and effect, main idea, vocabulary words, prefix and suffix, Before Reading, During Reading and After Reading, Identifying a paragraph, and putting proper endings on words. We have enjoyed reading Tall Tales and writing and illustrating our own Tall Tale. The students enjoyed this group activity.

In Math we have reviewed all lessons taught previously. A few still need to practice money and subtraction. We enjoyed making our fraction cookies and making folded fractions. The Fourth nine weeks we will be studying measurement and shapes.

In Science we studied weather and fossils. The students are in the process of making fossils. Our next unit of study will be simple machines and measurement.

In Social Studies we worked on Famous Americans. Our class did awesome on this test. We then made puppets and are performing a puppet show. Our next unit of

study will be on China and Egypt and then a review of all we studied.

In Language Arts we will work on homophones, more prefix and suffix, contractions, possessives and poetry. We will continue writing in our Journal and learning cursive. I will send home their handwriting book for you to practice with over the summer. Please make sure you follow the model that was provided for you.

We enjoyed our visit from the Children's Art Network. We learned a lot about Egypt and China. Our craft activities were fun. We are thankful our students get these opportunities.



Students are still working on AR. We have extended the prizes to 30 points for an Ice Cream Party and 50 a trophy. This is for Second Graders only. In years past we had many trophies. I hope your student will work to get this.

A letter will come home shortly of all the fun events we have planned. Please put this on your calendar so the students do not miss out.

I have seen tremendous growth in your child since the beginning of the year. Look over the DOV website and you will see what your child has learned this year and what will be expected of them next year. We work hard and I am proud of your child.

## Third Grade

The weather has not been kind to us this 9 weeks!

We have finished our handwriting books and we are beginning to do some of our work in cursive. We have finished a chapter book called Muggie Maggie by Beverly Cleary about learning to write in cursive. We also continue to read books and take AR tests to earn points toward the end of the year trip.

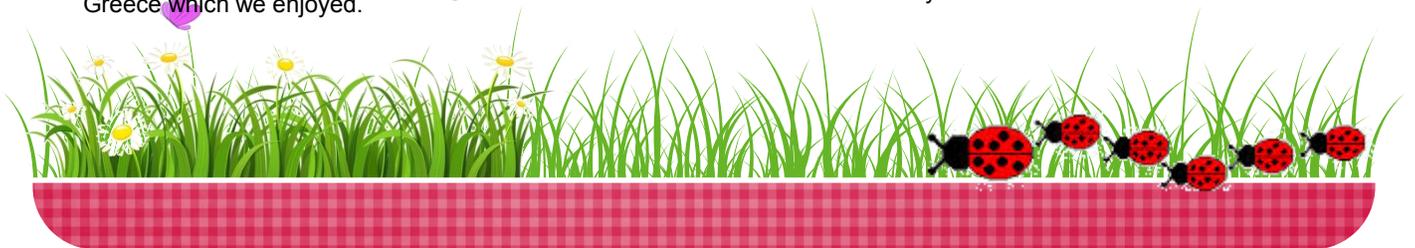
Multiplication facts keep us busy. We have flash card drills to help us learn the facts. **We need to practice every night.** Mrs. Hicklin will begin her flash card test soon.

For School Board Appreciation Month we made School Board Alphabet books.

We had 2 programs presented by the Children's Art Network with one on Ancient Rome and the other one on Ancient Greece which we enjoyed.



The last nine weeks of school will find us studying civil rights leaders and the ancient civilizations of Greece, Rome, and Mali in Social Studies. Water, rocks, and energy will be our units in Science. SOL review has begun and we are using our Social Studies and Science folders at home. SOL and IA testing will be in May/June. We will be busy, busy, busy until the last day of school in June!



## Fourth Grade

Fourth grade finished up division during the third nine weeks. Then we spent most of the nine weeks working on fractions. We will continue working on fractions in the upcoming nine weeks as well as measurement. We started working on measurement conversions with volume measurement. We will work on customary and metric measurement for volume and length during the last nine weeks. In reading, we continued working on reading comprehension strategies. We worked a lot on identifying the main idea and its supporting details. In addition, we worked on using a dictionary and started talking about word parts. We will do a lot of work on

word parts such as prefixes and suffixes during the last nine weeks. We will also work on synonyms and antonyms. We made it through the American Revolution and the Civil War in Virginia Studies. We also went through the creation of the United States. Now, we will rebuild Virginia after the devastation of the Civil War and learn highlights of Virginia history during the 1900s. We will also go over Virginia government again. We worked on electricity during the third nine weeks in science. We spent almost the entire nine weeks working on weather. Currently, we are working on motion. Then we will study the solar system to wrap up the year.

## 6th & 7th Language Arts

We've been very busy this quarter! 7<sup>th</sup> grade really enjoyed reading The Outsider's and 6<sup>th</sup> grade read Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry as we studied the elements of fiction. Everyone got the chance to apply their understanding to their own written fictional stories, and the results were amazing! Many students are still working on their stories outside of class, and they will have class time to continue writing toward the beginning of May.

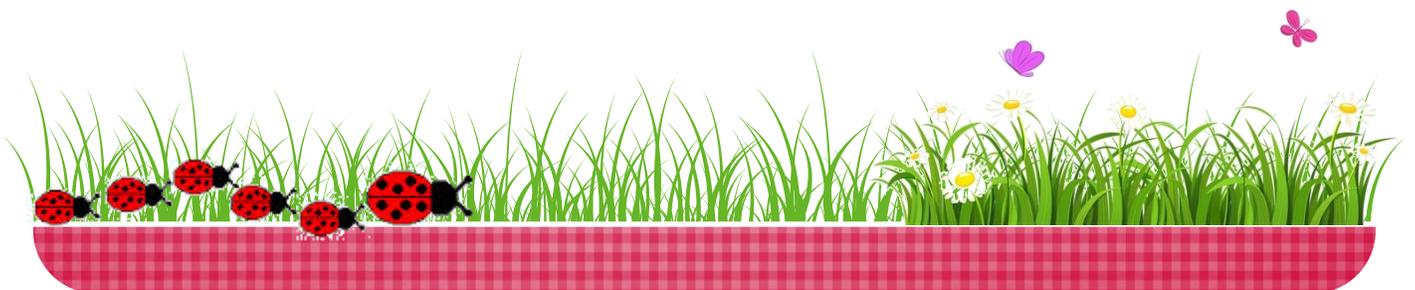
poetry. Looking for figurative language in popular music always appears to be a favorite part of this unit, though I haven't seen any written songs yet. I have seen all of 6<sup>th</sup> grade write their own limerick, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade is exploring everything from poetry using onomatopoeia to narrative poems expressing the evils of bullying and their concerns and excitement about moving to the high school next year.

Right now we are exploring both reading and writing

## 6th Grade Science

The 6<sup>th</sup> graders spent a portion of this nine weeks learning about weather and what weather we had! With thirteen snow days we had lots of chances to ponder it while sitting at home. We investigated the different types of severe weather and created posters detailing what to do if we encounter certain types of storms. Did you know that you can estimate how many miles away a thunderstorm is by counting the number of seconds between flashes of lightning and claps of thunder? Divide the number of seconds by five and get the distance in miles. Lightning is always seen before thunder because light travels faster than sound. After completing the weather unit we began learning about Virginia's watershed.

We are special here in Bath County because we just happen to live in the largest watershed in Virginia, the James River watershed. To find Bath County's watershed address we discovered that our water source begins with Shaws Fork and the Bullpasture River then flows into the Cowpasture River. The Cowpasture river then flows into the James River and into the Chesapeake Bay. The Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States, empties into the Atlantic Ocean. We also learned what we need to do to keep our watershed clean. We give a HOOT, we don't Pollute!



## 7th Grade Life Science

After creating an entire population of paper pets, who survived spotted nose malady and a move to the jungle while evolving as a species, 7<sup>th</sup> grade science has shifted into our study of biomes, ecosystems, and relationships between organisms. They are currently working in groups to tackle the challenge of building an entire ecosystem with 6-8 moving organisms. I'm amazed at their creativity as they find ways to ensure each organism has everything they need to survive. I can't wait to see the ways the organisms move!



## Social Studies

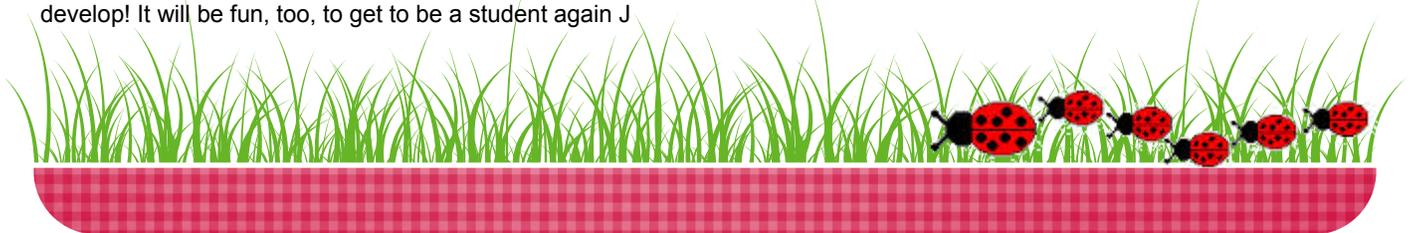
And it's here! We're in the final stretch of the school year! I can't believe it. This year has zipped by. I guess that's what happens when you're having so much fun, like 5<sup>th</sup> grade! We're moving right along in history and they're doing great! I've never seen such good grades. I guess I was right about them enjoying this content much more! They've discovered some of the great things accomplished by our first five presidents as well as why we moved west. We're finishing up the Civil War and headed into review for our SOL test.

US History II has been equally as exciting! The sixth-graders really seem to be enjoying learning about the not-so-distant past (maybe as much as I enjoy teaching it). After learning about the music, art, and literature of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, we moved in to one of the darkest times of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the Great Depression. We've made it through World War II and the Cold War. Speaking of the Cold War, we had a blast visiting the bunker at The Greenbrier! We've been covering the Civil Rights Movement now, and then it's on to SOL review! Can you believe it?!

Seventh graders, in Civics and Economics, have really impressed me lately! I love their interest in our laws and how government works. After learning about local government, and parts of Bath County's government, we spent a great deal of time on criminal and civil law. Sheriff Plecker even came by to talk with the class and discussed how to make a search warrant! I've been pleasantly surprised at how interested they are in economics. Maybe it's because they know that's been a big deal right now in our national, state, and local governments? Whatever it is, I like it!

## 7th Grade Math

In seventh grade math, we've covered all of the material and are now in review mode. Students have been creating their own lesson plans on different standards so they can be the teachers! I'm very excited to see the lessons they develop! It will be fun, too, to get to be a student again J



## Music



Classes have continued to be busy during the past few weeks. Patriotic Music has been a huge topic in most classes during the third nine weeks. Each class has focused on one Patriotic song. Students are working to learn the words of this song as well as the meaning of these words. The overall plan is for students to know several important Patriotic songs by the end of fifth grade.

Pre-School students have spent most of their music time participating in singing, playing instruments and movement activities. We have so much fun!

Kindergarten students have been learning about the parts of the guitar. They continue to participate in lots of movement activities as well as classroom singing. We have talked about important musical words such as introduction, vocal and instrumental.

First Graders continue to build their repertoire of songs. These students love to sing and play rhythm instruments! First Grade's patriotic song is This Land is Your Land.

Second grade is currently reviewing the trumpet, flute, violin and bass drum. Students can recognize these instruments by sight and know several characteristics of each. We will be working on recognizing them by sound during the next few weeks. America the Beautiful is the Patriotic song that second grade is learning.

Third Grade is now studying about the Woodwind Family. The Percussion family will be next! Third grade has learned so much about reading music and understanding musical symbols. I am quite proud of them. Third

grade is studying the Star Spangled Banner, our national anthem!

Fourth graders are currently learning to play the Recorder. Students have learned five notes and will continue working with the recorder until sometime in May. The fourth grade has talked about our "old" State song – Carry Me Back to Ole Virginny. We have been introduced to our current state song – Oh, Shenandoah as well as the possibility of a new state song.

Fifth Graders are learning about the Music of the Twentieth Century. We are looking at the important styles of music from each decade. We are introduced to outstanding performers of each decade. Listening devices are an important part of our class discussions as well. The Patriotic song for this group is The Fifty States in Rhyme. Be sure to have a fifth grader sing this for you. We are currently about half way through it! Fun song!

The sixth grade class spent a lot of time learning about the periods of Musical History. We have discussed the Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and Classical periods. We are currently talking about Ludwig van Beethoven and the beginning of the Romantic period.

Seventh grade enjoyed playing the guitar for the past several weeks. Students have learned to play Happy Birthday, Louie, Louie, Smoke on the Water and Wipe Out. Students are helping teach their classmates some of the songs they can play on the guitar. We have also talked about musicians that have had to overcome great adversity in their lives. I am trying to get the students to realize that any goal is possible!

## Art

Students have been busy on fantastic projects during the third nine weeks.

All Students in Kindergarten through fifth grade created their favorite vacation drawings. This was the theme for BARC Electric's art contest. Students who had permission will have their poster submitted for the contest.

Students in Kindergarten are creating ice cream drawings using oil pastels and paint. First grade is currently working on snails made from clay. Students painted the snails, and the final step will be to add glitter paint. Kindergarten will make pinch pots and will be able to paint the clay the next class. Kindergarten and first grade will create Picasso influenced self-portraits using paint and colored pencils.

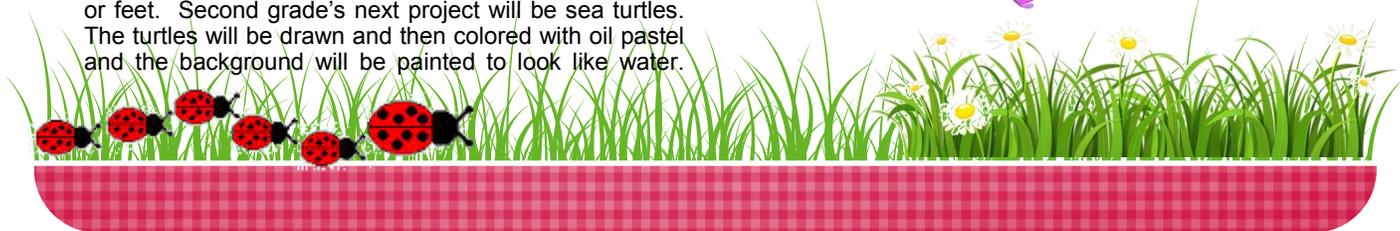
Second and third grade are in the process of creating aliens/monsters by using empty water bottles or soda pop bottles that are twenty ounces or smaller. Students will first cover the tissue paper on the outside and then add construction paper and other materials to add eyes or feet. Second grade's next project will be sea turtles. The turtles will be drawn and then colored with oil pastel and the background will be painted to look like water.

Third grade will be drawing an owl made with oil pastels on black paper.

Students in fourth grade are creating a paper mache mask by tearing up old newspaper and using a mold to form the mask. The next step will be to add paint or colored paper on top of the paper mache. Then other materials such as yarn will be used for details such as hair.

Fifth and sixth grade will create clay tiles by creating a slab of clay and then will carve and/or add parts to their tiles. The next step will be for students to paint their tiles for the next two classes. Seventh grade is working on decorating chairs using paint. The next project for fifth, sixth, and seventh grade will be landscape drawing using pastels.

Please remember that donations of newspaper and plastic containers are greatly appreciated. Students please keep up the amazing work!



## Math Madness 5th & 6th Grade

Making play-dough turtles and creating Minions, now that's not math! In 5<sup>th</sup> grade we created colorful play dough turtles after reading about a Turtle Hospital in Florida. The students gave their turtle a name in the form of an alliteration. We measured our turtle's length and width in centimeters and the tails, we measured in millimeters. Ask your student how to change centimeters to millimeters? Also, ask them to explain how to use *King Henry Doesn't Usually Drink Chocolate Milk*. We found the mass of our turtles in grams. Some students even created wee baby turtles.

In fifth and sixth grade we used the Minions, from the Happy Song of the talent show, to practice measurements. Sixth grade found the area and the circumference of the Minions eye balls. Fifth grade found the height and the width of the Minions. Many students wrote a little poem about the characteristics of their Minions. One of my favorites, by Kaleb and Sarah, is below. Math can be fun...occasionally.

El Matador

Speedy, loquacious

Bullfighting, arguing, screeching

Howling as he is being trampled by a bull

The brave

(and Dumb)



## Physical Education

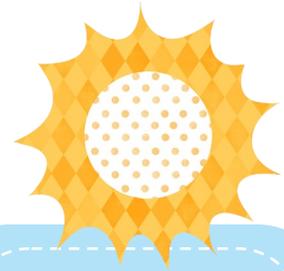
It is hard to believe we are entering the last nine weeks of school and there is so much left to be done.

Family life education began on April 13 for grades 4-7. The 7<sup>th</sup> graders will be participating in the Baby Think It Over Program the weekend of the 17<sup>th</sup>. There will be a lot of tired 7<sup>th</sup> graders by the time the weekend is complete.

Fitnessgram testing for grades 4-7 will begin Mon., April 27. The students know that the focus in class has been on upper body strength and endurance running. Please encourage you son(s) and/or daughter(s) to be practicing at home. This will be the third time testing this year and we are pushing for 100% improvement in all tests.

Field day for PS-3 will be held Monday, June 1 beginning around 8:30. The ROAR reward water activity with the pools, slip and slide and fire truck are Friday afternoon, May 29. Grades 4-7 will have field day activities Wed., June 3 in the morning and the ROAR activity at the pool will be Thursday, June 4 in the afternoon.

Come by and see us for a good time in the gym!!!



### Coins For A Cure

\$664.62 was raised during this fundraiser.

Thank you for your support!!



